



Mental Health and Addiction NGO and Community Sector

COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

This information is accurate as at 2.30pm Thursday 25 March 2021.

It has been developed from information known at that time. It is intended to provide members of Platform Trust resources and preliminary guidance to enable MHA NGO and community providers to have correct and factual information about the vaccine and rollout programme.

This information will be reviewed and may change given the nature of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and decisions made by the Government and Ministry of Health.

Vaccination Roll Out Information

- A range of information is now available on the [Ministry of Health's website](#) that outlines the next stages of the vaccine rollout. You can also find an online tool that outlines when people in New Zealand can expect to get vaccinated on the [Covid-19 website](#).
- People experiencing mental health and addiction issues who require daily support in residential settings from multiple carers or who live in the community in a communal care environment, along with their immediate family carers, are to be included in 'group 2' of the vaccination rollout. This [A3 Summary of the rollout plan](#) – summarises each of the four Groups that will progressively receive vaccines.
- More detailed information for people experiencing mental health and addiction issues who receive support services, and the workforce that provides those services, is currently being developed. This will include information about why, where and how vaccinations will be available and will include detailed Q&As about the vaccine and how you can access it.
- We are working with the Ministry of Health and unions to ensure people have all the information they need so they are well prepared before they are invited to get their vaccination.
- A range of different options are being explored to ensure that vaccinations are offered in a way that includes a person's "bubble" (their support workers, clinical and specialist staff and immediate family), as well as options for delivering vaccines individually (for those in supported living situations) or collectively (for one or more group homes or individuals).
- A range of community-based venues as potential vaccine sites are also being explored – which may include mobile clinics, community pop-ups, at marae and other community venues including day programme sites.
- We expect that DHBs will soon begin to collect the contact details for many of those in group 2, and people will then start to make contact with you and/or your carers to discuss potential vaccination appointment times and locations. **Providers should**

now begin to think about what the most appropriate options are for those people they support, and begin to discuss these with their workforce in advance of the DHB vaccinator teams starting to make contact.

- For workers providing MHA services, it is expected that employers will receive general information about the numbers of staff vaccinated in their organisation (as part of their Health and Safety requirements). However, employers will only receive specific information about individual staff who are vaccinated if a staff person explicitly authorises this. No personal information will be provided without your consent.
- In the meantime more general information about vaccines and the roll out of the vaccination programme can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/covid-19-vaccine-resources-info-sheets/>

Vaccination and Employment Relations

- This link provides detailed guidance for employers in relation to vaccination related issues and good employer practice: <https://www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/other-types-of-leave/coronavirus-workplace/>
- We will forward more detailed advice for employers specific to our sector in the next day or so as it is currently being developed.

Other Useful resources/links:

- Online "[Find out when you can get a vaccine](#)" tool
- Simplified "[Getting your vaccine - What to expect](#)" resource
- [General information and resources](#) (FAQs, safety and side-effects, rollout sequence).
- Summaries of the vaccine rollout plan:
 1. General [overview page](#) on the Unite Against COVID-19 site
 2. [Protecting Aotearoa](#)– summary of the rollout plan and how it will work. Useful summary and key messages.

We urge you to distribute relevant information from these links so that people being supported by the MHA NGO and community sector and your staff correct and factual information about the vaccine and the roll out programme along with answers to questions that people may have.

END